



VOICE OF BUSINESS

Pilot shortage grounding planes at Dayton airport



Chris Kershner
President and CEO
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of Commerce

The Dayton region is blessed to have an international airport in our backyard that is the headquarters to PSA Airlines, a regional jet carrier for American Airlines. Dayton International Airport (DAY) serves the business community, creates a nexus with logistics and freight distribution and provides access for Dayton residents to anywhere in the world.

For the Dayton International Airport to be successful, our business community is continually working with it to identify new destinations and new airline service to serve our corporate partners. However, if you have flown recently you know crew shortages are causing flight cancellations everywhere, and airports have a fraction of the flights com-

pared to pre-pandemic.

As we've met with airlines operating at DAY, we discovered a simple fix that could put 500 more planes in the air today – more pilots. Regional carriers, like PSA Airlines, have always lost pilots as they get promoted to fly bigger planes for the major carriers. However, the Federal Aviation Administration is directly hindering regional carriers' ability to backfill these positions because of antiquated regulations that keep good pilots out of the cockpit and are grounding planes at regional jet airports like DAY.

If we can get more well-trained, safe pilots into the cockpit, then PSA Airlines alone could put dozens of more planes back in the air today. That means more planes at DAY, more flights for DAY and more destinations for Dayton businesses.

In 1959, the FAA required that pilots retire at age 60 and in 2007 they increased this mandatory retirement age to 65. The FAA's current 65 age rule isn't based on pilot training, safety or pilot performance. If a pilot's age is 65 years and 1 day, that doesn't make them a bad

Residential Home Sales

	July 2022	July 2021	%Change	YTD '22	YTD '21	%Change
Number of Homes Sold	1,551	1,711	-9.35%	9,395	9,705	-3.19%
Total Home Sales	\$388,099,861	\$385,050,902	0.79%	\$2,275,943,219	\$2,107,163,291	8.01%
Average Sale Price (\$)	\$250,226	\$225,044	11.19%	\$205,000	\$185,000	10.81%

Source: Dayton Area Board of Realtors, Dayton Area Home Sales

Sales Tax Collection

County	Current Rate	July 2022	July 2021	12 Mos Change	YTD 2022	YTD 2021	YTD Change
Butler	0.75%	\$4,975,874	\$4,948,340	0.56%	\$32,695,859	\$31,243,529	4.6%
Clark	1.50%	\$2,785,984	\$2,827,009	-1.45%	\$18,324,286	\$18,449,590	-0.7%
Darke	1.50%	\$1,013,279	\$974,530	3.98%	\$6,661,305	\$6,520,814	2.2%
Greene	1.00%	\$3,098,219	\$3,084,330	0.45%	\$20,460,721	\$19,662,420	4.1%
Miami	1.25%	\$2,062,555	\$2,021,619	2.02%	\$13,805,817	\$13,554,249	1.9%
Montgomery	1.25%	\$10,210,550	\$10,017,759	1.92%	\$70,469,160	\$67,247,199	4.8%
Preble	1.50%	\$670,797	\$629,329	6.59%	\$4,465,118	\$4,319,188	3.4%
Warren	1.25%	\$6,313,794	\$6,116,327	3.23%	\$39,061,019	\$36,802,281	6.1%
Region Total		\$31,131,052	\$30,619,244	1.67%	\$205,943,285	\$197,799,270	4.12%

Source: https://tax.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/tax/researcher/tax-analysis/tax-data-series/publications_tds_sales

pilot. Additionally, new pilots are required to have 1,500 hours of flight training at a cost of about \$200,000 before they can be in the cockpit of a jet. To get their training hours, many pilots fly single engine planes like crop dusters. I'm not a pilot, but I can tell you that single engine planes are not the same as a regional commuter plane with two jet engines, 75 passen-

gers and modern aerodynamics. The FAA needs to get out of the dark ages, change the rules and allow these pilots to meet their requirements with modern technology and simulators that mimic real world planes and environments. And by the way, at a cost of \$200,000, we have a real world equity issue that is putting pilot training out of reach for thousands of students.

As we look to immigration reform and creating legal pathways for foreign workers to support our business community, we can't ignore visa waivers and flight training reciprocity for foreign pilots that can come to the U.S. and put more planes in the air. Regional jet airports like DAY will always lose pilots to the major carriers, but we have easy solutions right in front of us

that will help DAY return air service, compete with bigger airports and get more direct destinations out of Dayton.

It's 2022 and we have access to technology that is safer, more efficient and will put more pilots in planes at our hometown airport. Let's use it!

Chris Kershner, president and CEO Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Reserve

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Tapping the reserve is among the few things a president can do alone to try to control inflation, which makes Americans poorer and often creates a political liability for the party in control of the White House.

Here is a look at what's involved:

What is the petroleum reserve?

America's Strategic Petroleum Reserve is a collection of underground salt caverns in Texas and Louisiana that can hold more than 700 million barrels of oil, although it is not currently full. The reserve held almost 409 million barrels earlier this month, down from more than 617 million barrels at the about the same point last year, according to the U.S. Energy Department.

The reserve was created after the 1970s Arab oil embargo to give the United States a supply that could be used in an emergency.

Why is it used?

The U.S. now exports more petroleum than it imports, but the reserve remains and has been tapped for various reasons, from offsetting the impact of hurricanes and ship-channel closings to raising money for deficit reduction.

In 1991, President George



An undated photo provided by the Department of Energy shows crude oil pipes at the Bryan Mound site near Freeport, Texas. President Joe Biden is dipping again into the nation's petroleum stockpile to try to corral rising energy prices. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY VIA AP

H.W. Bush authorized withdrawing nearly 34 million barrels during the Gulf War, although only 17 million barrels were used. In 2011, President Barack Obama approved the release of 30 million barrels to offset the disruption of supply from Libya.

How do they get the oil out?

Oil is lighter than water – that's why disasters like those caused by the Exxon Valdez tanker and the Deep-

water Horizon drilling rig create slicks on the surface. To remove oil from the reserves, water is pumped into the salt caverns, making the crude float to the surface, where it is captured and sent through pipelines to refineries.

Why is Biden tapping the reserve?

Supply and demand. Biden is hoping that by releasing more oil on the market, prices will fall. Prices did dip for nearly two weeks after Biden's initial announcement

about tapping the reserve back in November but they began to climb again before the month was over. U.S. crude is up more than 10% this year, but it has been falling steadily since June when a barrel cost more than \$120. U.S. benchmark crude futures were trading for around \$83 Wednesday.

Whether Biden's latest move works will depend on several factors. One factor to keep in mind: Even though 1 million barrels a day is a huge amount of oil,

the U.S. consumed nearly 20 million barrels a day last year, and worldwide consumption topped 97 million barrels a day.

Will gasoline get cheaper?

What most people want to know is what's going to happen to prices at the pump. Many factors go into the price of gasoline. Refineries buy crude oil in advance, so they could still be working with more expensive oil. States have differing tax rates that affect the price that motorists pay.

On Wednesday, the national average price for a gallon of regular was \$3.85, up 18 cents from a month ago, according to auto club AAA.

The average lower than that in many states in the middle of the country, but it's higher in the Northeast and highest in the West. In California, it's \$5.94 a gallon.

Even if those prices don't drop, Biden can argue that by tapping the reserve he tried to help.

Who gets hurt most?

Gasoline prices are regressive – lower-income people are more likely to spend a higher percentage of their money on gasoline than are affluent Americans – so increases hurt the most price-sensitive consumers. Kevin Book, managing director at Clearview Energy Partners, says those consumers

might not show up in measures of the nation's economy, "but they show up in vote counts ... if we get down to it, that's really what this is about."

Why does oil matter?

The future of oil and gas in the U.S. is a political flashpoint and source of tension, especially as companies and government agencies grapple with climate change and the transition to cleaner sources of energy.

On one hand, the U.S. oil and gas industry has been praised by some political leaders for creating energy independence. Where the U.S. once relied heavily on imports, other nations now rely on the U.S. for oil. It's also a job supplier: The oil and gas industry employs more than 10 million people in the U.S. and contributes about 8% of the nation's gross domestic product, according to the American Petroleum Institute.

Companies that supply oil benefit from higher prices. But consumers don't like it when those higher prices trickle down to the pump.

The institute has previously said that any release of oil from the strategic reserve should be paired with policy measures that encourage more U.S. energy production. That collides with Biden's promise to reduce dependence on fossil fuels that contribute to climate change.

Catch-A-Fire

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the restaurant is collaborating with Fretboard to make a "Catch-a-Fire" beer.

The Ledford's have hired 50 people to work at the restaurant and still have some openings to fill. Last week, the final touches were being made and some pre-opening special events took place to thank their partners, city officials, the

neighboring apartments, staff from the other locations, and the construction workers who built the restaurant.

Jeff Ledford said another feature later in November, will be the addition of three igloos on the patio to extend the indoor/outdoor experience. The heated igloos seat six people and will have the full menu as well as special igloo items similar to what is done at their Blue Ash location. Their Oakley location is inside the Mad Tree

Brewery.

"It's just a lot of fun. You're in your own little world," he said.

The Ledford's scoured the region for a new stand alone location before developer CMC Properties made a cold call out of the blue to them. Jeff Ledford said the site "checked all the boxes" for them and that city made them feel important.

Melissa Ledford said, "the city was very supportive and that sealed the deal." She also

added that the downtown streetscaping is beautiful.

"The grand opening of Catch-A-Fire in Lebanon is a significant milestone in the multi-year process of redeveloping the 511 N. Broadway property and expanding what Lebanon's downtown has to offer for our residents, visitors, and business community," said Scott Brunka, Lebanon city manager. "They were the first restaurant to commit to the project and redevelopment of this corridor,

and the city greatly appreciates their vision and investment in our community.

Another restaurant in the same building is expected to open by year's end. Mi Cozumel, which is owned by Lilianna Jaime, serves more than 100 brands of tequila and over 50 brands of mezcal. That restaurant space will be about 6,300 square feet when it opens to the public.

"We are also distinguished for serving over 40 flavors of margaritas, our authen-

tic table-side guacamole, and our delicious flaming fajitas," she said in a statement last month, pointing to fresh, quality ingredients.

The opening of Catch-a-Fire Pizza is the second new eatery in downtown Lebanon in the past several weeks. Last month, Lebanon Brewing Company opened in the city's former fire house.

Contact this reporter at 513-594-5067 or email Ed.Richter@coxinc.com.

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